

The Power of Choice

I've always thought that the most powerful thing that human beings possess is the ability to love, for I believe that true love gives you the courage to do almost everything! However, that was before I discovered the power of choice.

We all know that a bad choice can have very negative effects either on us or on the people around us. One very good example would be giving in to the temptation to play computer games and not revise fully before an examination. Because of this, we may do badly for the examination. Another one would be failing to cherish a loved one until he or she leaves us. When situations like these happen, we always regret that we didn't make the correct choice previously.

What about good choices? There's something that I've learnt from numerous books, songs, movies, and also from the stories that my elders tell me. That is, "The only way to not have a thousand regrets on your deathbed is to live life to the fullest and cherish everything around you, even if it doesn't belong to you." However, I've never truly comprehended the way to do that until I made the decision to buy the tickets to my favourite singer's concert. I was very torn between buying and not buying, for I was afraid that I would be wasting both my time and my parents' hard-earned money. After a few days, I recalled the lyrics of a song that a friend introduced to me some time ago: "It's my life, it's now or never. I ain't gonna live forever. I just wanna live while I'm alive." ("It's My Life" by Bon Jovi). Of course, after remembering that, I immediately decided to purchase the tickets to the concert.

Then, there was this other incident. Recently, as I was on my way to a mall, I saw a youth giving out flyers at the base of an escalator. He tried to give one to the person before me, but she declined. Then, it was my turn. I took it from him because I knew that this was a tough job to do (as illustrated by the lady in front of me). To my surprise, he said a soft 'thank you' to me, and I turned to beam at him, for rarely have I encountered such a polite person. I then stepped onto the escalator and glanced back accidentally to see him looking a little stunned. After a moment, he smiled.

That convinced me thoroughly of my belief that there is power in every single choice that we make. At that moment when he smiled, I realised the power of choice. I could have chosen not to smile at him, but I did smile and that probably made his day.

Love may triumph all adversities, but it is we who *choose* to love. Being able to choose gives us the ability to stand up for a victim who is being bullied instead of walking by and thinking “I can’t do anything anyway”. It gives us the ability to determine our emotions, to determine our every action, to be optimistic when we encounter difficulties. It gives us the ability to determine our lives. I chose my life. What about you?

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